

Geneva, April 9th, 1932.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS**Conference for the reduction and limitation
of armaments****MEMORANDUM RELATING TO THE ITALIAN PROPOSALS
FOR QUALITATIVE LIMITATION****(Conf. D. 81)**

April 3rd, 1932.

I.

In document Conf. D. 81, dated February 19th last, the Italian delegation submitted the following proposals to the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments :

In the sphere of land armaments :

- (1) Abolition of heavy artillery of every kind ;
- (2) Abolition of tanks of every kind.

In the sphere of naval armaments :

- (1) Simultaneous abolition of capital ships and submarines ;
- (2) Abolition of aircraft-carriers.

In the sphere of air armaments :

Abolition of bombing-aircraft.

In every sphere :

- (1) Abolition of aggressive chemical and bacteriological weapons of every kind ;
- (2) Revision of the laws of war with a view to the more complete and effective protection of the civil population.

In the opinion of the Italian delegation, these proposals constitute an indivisible organic plan, in the sense that abolition should embrace all the war material mentioned above. This material could be scrapped, either immediately or by stages, within a period to be determined.

Series of League of Nations Publications

IX. DISARMAMENT**1932. IX. 32.**

II.

With a view to the practical application of the principles thus laid down, the Italian delegation suggests the following measures.

Land Armaments.

A. — THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES UNDERTAKE TO SCRAP HEAVY LAND ARTILLERY OF EVERY KIND, NOT TO MANUFACTURE OR ACQUIRE ANY SUCH ARTILLERY IN THE FUTURE NOR TO MANUFACTURE OR ACQUIRE GUN-CARRIAGES CAPABLE OF RENDERING HEAVY COAST OR NAVAL ARTILLERY IN ANY WAY TRANSPORTABLE.

Definition. — The term “ heavy artillery ” is to be understood to mean guns, cannon, howitzers and mortars of a calibre exceeding 100 mm., irrespective of their weight.

With a view to the abolition of artillery of this description, the Contracting Parties undertake :

(1) *To state :*

(a) The number of pieces of heavy artillery ;

(b) The number of mobile gun-carriages (or carriages which can be rendered mobile for the above-mentioned artillery) ;

(c) The total stock of ammunition intended for the artillery mentioned under letter (a).

The returns under (a), (b) and (c) must include the whole of the material existing in each State.

The pieces must be classified according to the purpose for which they are intended (cannon, howitzers, mortars) and according to their calibre.

In the case of gun-carriages, the type (rigid or recoil) and the guns for which they are intended should be indicated.

(2) *To scrap* all the guns and gun-carriages mentioned under (a) and (b) of No. 1, with the exception of the guns required for arming the fixed batteries facing the sea belonging to maritime fortresses.

The guns and carriages must be scrapped separately and must be rendered totally incapable of warlike service.

Scrapping shall therefore be regarded as effected for the purposes of this Convention only when the material has been melted down or broken up.

(3) *To render* all ammunition intended for the said guns *unfit for service* with the prohibited artillery.

This scrapping shall be regarded as effected for the purposes of the Convention when the metal parts of the ammunition have been melted down or broken up.

(4) *To maintain* in the heavy batteries of maritime fortresses, for the exclusive defence of the sea-front, only guns on turret or centre-pivoted mountings not capable of adaptation for field use, with a stock of ammunition not exceeding x rounds per gun.

B. — THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES AGREE TO ABOLISH TANKS AND ARMoured CARS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION AND TO REFRAIN FROM CONSTRUCTING OR ACQUIRING THEM IN FUTURE ; THEY LIKEWISE AGREE TO TAKE STEPS TO SEE THAT MOTOR VEHICLES FOR INDUSTRIAL OR AGRICULTURAL USE DO NOT POSSESS CHARACTERISTICS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO BE CONVERTED INTO TANKS AND UTILISED IN THAT FORM.

With a view to the scrapping of this category of armaments, the Contracting Parties undertake :

(1) *To state* the number of tanks and armoured cars of every description in existence ;

(2) *To destroy or render incapable* of warlike service the whole of the material mentioned above and also all spare parts for the maintenance of this material in working order.

The armour plating and chassis must be scrapped—that is to say, broken up or melted down.

The arms may be kept if they are of the authorised calibre.

The engines may be kept provided they are employed for industrial or agricultural vehicles or establishments ; otherwise they must be scrapped.

Naval Armaments.

A. — THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES UNDERTAKE TO DISARM, TO SCRAP AND TO BREAK UP CAPITAL SHIPS AND SUBMARINES SIMULTANEOUSLY, AND ALSO TO DISARM, AND BREAK UP AIRCRAFT-CARRIERS AND NOT TO CONSTRUCT OR ACQUIRE VESSELS OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED TYPES IN FUTURE.

Definition. — By a capital ship is meant a vessel of war, not an aircraft carrier whose displacement exceeds 10,000 tons (10,160 metric tons) standard displacement or which carries a gun with a calibre exceeding 8 inches (203 mm.).

By an aircraft-carrier is meant any surface vessel of war, whatever its carrier displacement, designed for the specific and exclusive purpose of carrying aircraft and so constructed that aircraft can be launched therefrom and landed thereon.

By a submarine is meant any vessel of war, whatever its tonnage, capable of navigating below the surface.

With a view to the abolition of armaments of this category, the Contracting Parties undertake to comply with the following rules : each of the units to be disposed of may either be scrapped or converted into a hulk at the option of the High Contracting Party concerned.

I. *Vessels to be scrapped :*

(a) A vessel to be scrapped must be rendered incapable of warlike service within x months of the entry into force of the Convention.

(b) A vessel to be scrapped shall be considered incapable of warlike service when there shall have been removed and landed or else destroyed in the ship :

- (1) All guns and essential parts of guns, fire-control tops and revolving parts of all barbettes and turrets ;
- (2) All hydraulic or electric machinery for operating turrets ;
- (3) All fire-control instruments and range-finders ;
- (4) All ammunition, explosives, mines and mine rails ;
- (5) All torpedoes, war heads, torpedo-tubes and training-racks ;
- (6) All wireless telegraphy installations ;
- (7) All main propelling machinery, or alternatively the armoured conning-tower and all side armour-plate ;
- (8) All aircraft cranes, derricks, lifts and launching apparatus ; all landing-on or flying-off platforms and decks, or alternatively all main propelling machinery ;
- (9) In addition, in the case of submarines, all main storage batteries, air-compressor plants and ballast pumps.

(c) Scrapping shall be finally effected in either of the following ways, within x months of the date on which the work of rendering the vessel incapable of warlike service is due for completion :

- (1) Permanent sinking of the vessel ;
- (2) Breaking the vessel up (this shall always include the destruction or removal of all machinery, boilers and armour and all deck, side and bottom plating).

II. *Vessels to be converted to Hulks.*

A vessel to be disposed of by conversion to a hulk shall be considered finally disposed of when the conditions prescribed in Section I, paragraph (b), have been complied with, omitting sub-paragraphs 6, 7 and 8, and when the following have been effected :

- (1) Mutilation beyond repair of all propeller-shafts, thrust-blocks, turbine-gearing or main propelling-motors and turbines or cylinders of main engines ;
- (2) Removal of propeller-brackets ;
- (3) Removal and breaking up of all aircraft-lifts, and the removal of all aircraft-cranes, derricks and launching apparatus.

The vessel must be put in the above condition within the same limits of time as provided in Section I for rendering a vessel incapable of warlike service.

Air Armaments.

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES UNDERTAKE TO DESTROY MILITARY DIRIGIBLES AND BOMBING-MACHINES AND NOT TO CONSTRUCT ANY IN FUTURE.

Definition. — By bombing-machines are meant all aircraft with the exception of :

(a) Single-seater machines used for short-radius reconnaissance, defence and air police, the empty weight and power of which shall not exceed :

	Weight empty Kg.	Maximum power H.P.
Land aircraft	x	y
Hydroplanes (Seaplanes) (excluding floats)	X ¹	Y ¹

(b) Training machines. The total of these machines shall be strictly proportional to the number of pilots in service and in reserve. The said machines, if single-seaters, shall be subject to the restrictions laid down in the previous paragraph ; if two-seaters, they shall not exceed 20 per cent of the above-mentioned total and shall conform to the following limits :

	Weight empty Kg.	Maximum power H.P.
Land aircraft	z	j
Hydroplanes (Seaplanes) (excluding floats)	z ¹	j ¹

With a view to the elimination of prohibited aircraft, the Contracting Parties undertake :

- (1) To make known the number and types of military aircraft which they own ;
- (2) Not to construct annually a number of aircraft exceeding that of the aircraft scrapped, exception being made for those necessary to reach the limit laid down in the Convention ;
- (3) To destroy immediately all the reserve material in service and in store ;
- (4) To destroy all means of aggression by dropping, and all appliances for discharge and aiming, and to prohibit their manufacture ;
- (5) To maintain the available reserve of new machines at not more than 25 per cent of the number authorised, and that of engines at not more than 50 per cent of the engines in service.

Chemical and Bacteriological Weapons.

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES AGREE TO ABOLISH THE USE IN TIME OF WAR OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS OF ALL KINDS AND PARTICULARLY TO PROHIBIT ALL ASPHYXIATING, TOXIC, LACHRYMATORY OR SIMILAR GASES, ALL LIQUIDS OR OTHER SUBSTANCES OR DEVICES PRODUCING RESULTS SIMILAR TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED GASES AND BACTERIOLOGICAL METHODS OF ALL KINDS.

ACCORDINGLY, THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES UNDERTAKE :

- (1) To destroy, within a period of x months as from the entry into force of the Convention, all quantities of chemical and bacteriological substances of the kinds mentioned above constituting reserve depots or material for experiment, as well as the plant serving for their manufacture and all appliances serving for their utilisation. Nevertheless plant capable of direct employment by the chemical and pharmaceutical industry for non-military purposes may be retained on condition that it is strictly utilised for the needs of peaceable industries.
- (2) To destroy, within a period of x months as from the entry into force of the Convention, all artillery or hand ammunition and projectiles of all kinds loaded with chemical and bacteriological substances of the above-mentioned categories and intended for discharge by aircraft.
- (3) Not to manufacture in future chemical and bacteriological substances of the above-mentioned kinds specifically intended to harm the belligerents or the civil population, with the exception, however, of chemical or bacteriological substances capable of being utilised for peaceable industrial and scientific purposes and for such purposes only. They also undertake not to manufacture appliances for the utilisation of the said substances.
- (4) Not to maintain or train personnel specialised in the use of aggressive and bacteriological appliances of all kinds, even as personnel of other undertakings ; not to publish even for purely theoretical purposes regulations or instructions dealing with the use of the said aggressive appliances.
- (5) Not to import chemical and bacteriological appliances of any kind specifically intended for warlike purposes.

III.

As regards the time-limits within which the material should be destroyed, the Italian delegation realises that this material could probably not be rendered useless at the same date in its entirety and that the method of destruction must be appropriate to the particular requirements of the different categories of armaments.

The following measures might accordingly be considered :

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES UNDERTAKE :

(a) To render useless and to destroy the material whose abolition is stipulated, within x months from the date of entry into force of the Convention, and to complete this operation within $x + y$ months.

(b) To render useless and destroy the said material in instalments and in successive periods, having recourse to methods appropriate to the particular requirements of the different categories of armaments.

IV.

The Italian delegation considers that the qualitative limitation of armaments must necessarily be accompanied :

- (1) By a revision of the laws of war ;
- (2) By suitable measures for the control of civil aviation.

It wishes forthwith to draw the Conference's attention to the necessity of contractual obligations to prevent the utilisation of authorised means of war for purposes usually achieved with abolished means of war.

As regards civil aviation, the Italian delegation considers that it is necessary :

- (1) To give it the greatest possible publicity ;
 - (2) To exercise technical and administrative supervision ;
 - (3) For the High Contracting Parties to undertake not to vary materially the proportional ratios to be fixed.
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